

128. ZWALTER / ZWALDER

One finds a variety of spellings of this name – Zwaldler, Zwalter, Swalter, Zwaly, SeValth, etc. in the French records. It is believed that the name in German may indeed be Schowalter. From the French records we have not been able to establish a proper spelling. While researching other Amish Mennonite family's history, we occasionally find the Zwalter surname.

With the available information and records we have put together a family of eight daughters for Bishop Christian Zwalter and his wife Marie Riser. A number of birth and death records show this family lived for a time at Gondrexange, Moselle, Lorraine, France. Because three of these daughters had descendants who emigrated to Canada and have descendants here yet today, we will present a brief list of this family.

According to a note written by Jonas U. Neuhauser, Bishop Zwaldler had eight daughters – as follows:

Daughter Magdalena was married to Christian Neuhauser

Two daughters married Birkey

Two daughters married Gascho

One daughter married Ebersol

[two daughters not accounted for]



Gondrexange, Moselle
Lorraine, France

Population 2017: 491

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THE CHRISTIAN ZWALTER FAMILY

CHRISTIAN ZWALTER/SWALTER, son of Michel Swalter and Elizabeth Naxier/Nafziger

b. ca.1737; d. 24 Feb 1797

Christian was an Amish Mennonite minister and elder.

m. **MARIE RISER**, b. ca.1835; d. 3 Oct 1800, Gondrexange, Moselle, Lorraine, France
(Reyser or Richard in other records)

Children:

1) **Zwalter, Barbara** b. ca.1766

m. Jean/John Abresol, possible son of Jacques/Jacob Abresol/Ebersol and Anne Lichti.

b. before 1768

Children:

(See Ebersol and Neuhauser Family Genealogical Introductions)

1. Christophe Abresol/Ebersol, b. 1788 at Rhodes, Moselle, Lorraine; d. 1862 in Wilmot, Ont.
m. Susanna Neuhauser, (widow of Christian Blank)
2. Marie Abresol (1792-1881) m. Joseph Schertz

2) **Zwalter, Anne**, b. ca.1767; d. 14 Feb 1830

m. André Gascho, son of François Gascho and Anne Chraque/Schrag

b. ca.1768; d. 24 Apr 1812, Imling, Lorraine, France

Children:

1. Maria Anna Gascho (ca 1795-1841) m. Christian Birky
2. Christian Gascho (ca 1796-1871) m. Magdalena/Maria Gingerich
3. Joseph Gascho (1797-1882) m. Magdalena Ingold
4. Barbara Gascho (1800-1800) m. Nicholas Augustin/Augstien
5. André/Andres Gascho (1803-1858) m. likely Barbara Eichelberger
6. Anne Gascho (1805-1806)
7. Jacob Gascho (1809- prior to Feb. 1811)
8. John Gascho (1810-1870) m. Magdalena Gunden
9. Jacob Gascho (b. 28 Feb, 1811)

(See Gascho Family Genealogical Introductions)

3) **Zwalter, Catherine**, b. ca. 1769

m. 7 Aug 1797, Gondrexange, Lorraine, France

Joseph Gascho, son of François Cachot/Gascho and Anne Chraque/Schrag

b. ca. 1773

Children:

1. Christian Gascho (1798-1870) m. Christina Petersheim
2. Joseph Gascho (1801-1808)
3. Catherine Gascho (1803-)
4. Joseph Gascho (1808-1866) m. Susanna Stutzman (*other source says: m. Marie Stalter*)
5. Valentine Gascho (no records found; remembered in a family tradition)

(See Gascho Family Genealogical Introductions)

4) **Zwalter, Magdalena**, b. 1 Dec 1772, Gondrexange ; d. 1 Jan 1814 in Imling, Moselle

m. 20 Apr 1794, Gondrexange, Moselle

Christian Neuhauser, son of Christian Neuhauser and Anne Zimmerman

b. 1 Oct 1767, Gros-Rederching, Moselle (Lorraine)

d. 17 Aug 1809, Imling

Children:

(See Neuhauser Family Genealogical Introductions)

1. Joseph Neuhauser (1795-1812)
2. Christian Neuhauser (1797-1882) m. Barbara Blank
3. Magdalena Neuhauser (1799-1882) m. Joseph Kennel
4. Jean Neuhauser (1802-1806)
5. Jean/John Neuhauser (1810-1878) 1m. Lydia Blank; 2m. Anna Umble

- 5) **Zwalter, Anne Marie**, b. 10 Sep 1776
m. 12 Dec 1793, Gondrexange, Lorraine, France
Joseph Mosimann (or Musselman), b. 7 Aug 1765; son of Christian and Margaret Mosimann
gave birth to son Christian in 1801; signed by Christian Neuhauser, uncle of child
- 6) **Zwalter/Stavalter, Freine/Veronica**, b. ca.1777/80 from Gondrexange
m. 3 Mar 1798
Jean/John Perki/Berki, son of Johannes Burki (b. 1750) and Elizabeth Ruby
b. 1776/7 Rimsdorf, Alsace
This family immigrated to America in 1836. Both John and Freni died in Putnam County.
Children: *(some of the children listed here are assumed to belong to this family)*
1. Andreas Birky (1798-1799)
 2. Barbara Birky (1800-1856) m. Jakob Ackermann
 3. Johannes Birki (1801-)
 4. Andreas Burkey (1802-1886) m. Magdalena Albrecht
 5. Magdalena Birky (1805-) m. Peter Roggy of Armsdorf (moved to USA in 1835)
 6. Jacob Burkey (1810-) m. Magdalena _____
 7. Johannes Birky (1812- in USA?)
 8. Valentin Birky (1815- in USA?)
 9. Catharina Burkey (1819-1895 in USA) m. Peter Albrecht
 10. Johann Burkey (1820-) m. Catharina _____
- 7) **Zwalter daughter**, who married to a Birkey, has not been found in our research.
- 8) **Zwald, Elisabeth** m. Jacques Mossman
Among the deaths at Ste. Marie-aux-Mines is found the death of
Jacques Mossman, age 55, son of Jacques Mossman & Sophie Boulanger
(Might this be the 8th daughter of Bishop Christian Zwalter/Schowalter?)

Jean/John Birky, married 6) Veronica Zwalter. First traces of this Birky family are found at Buscherhof, , Rimsdorf, district of Zabern, Bas-Rhin. John Birky appears in 1802 still at Gondrexange, Dep. Meurthe, Lorraine, but by 1811 he lives in Bavaria. He buys an estate in 1818 at Obersanding, Bavaria, and three more siblings documented in Bavaria. In 1836 he emigrates, by 1850 the family is living in Putnam, Illinois. The information in this paragraph is from Researcher Helmut Gingerich, Bavaria, Germany. Helmut also suggests that 6) Veronica Zwalter, and 7) Zwalter daughter who married a Birky, are one and the same person.

From certain documents we gather that the name of Bishop Christian Zwalter's wife was Marie – Reyser in some cases, and Richard in others. It is not likely there were two different wives, but we are not certain which is the correct rendering of her name. Copies of a few documents and many notes on others are found in this file.

ADDITIONAL ZWALTERS

Two additional Zwalter women are found in the records:

Zwalter, Magdalena, d. 9 Jan 1803, age 60, at Imling near Sarrebourg, Lorraine, France
given birthplace is Sulzbach, Palatinate
wife of deceased Joseph Sommer
signed by nephew Christian Neuhauser, age 30

Magdalena, wife of Joseph Sommer, who died in 1803, age 60, must be from the same generation as the Bishop. Because of her age and because of the duplication of names, she probably was not a sister of the other eight, but may, indeed, be the sister of Bishop Christian.

Zwaller , Catherine, b. ca. 1752; d. May 25, 1823 at Dombrot-sur-Vair, Vosges, Lorraine perhaps another child of Michel Swalter and Elisabeth Naxier [Nafziger].

m. 1783 to Rudolf/Rudolphe Bältzli, b. ca. 1743 the hamlet of Freistett at Fribourg
He tended livestock on Ste. Croix farm at Fribourg near Rhodes.

Catherine was Rudolf's second wife.

1m. Rudolf/Rudolphe Bältzli to Anne Zorny, d. March 3, 1782 at Rhodes

Descendents of Rudolf Bältzli found in Woodford and Tazewell Counties, Illinois. The name changed to Belsley and Pelsy (*This paragraph from Joseph Peter Staker – Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, Illinois*)

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

The files referred to in these notes are kept in Lorraine Roth's Collection in the Archives at Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, Ontario. Digital copies of some of the transliterations and translations of records in Bibles or other old books can be obtained from Bruce W. Jantzi at bwjantzi@gmail.com

1. Since John Bradley Arthaud, formerly of Columbia, Missouri, was an Ebersol descendant, he invested a great deal of time and energy in researching the Zwalter/Swalter family. Copies and notes of his research, along with some correspondence, are found in the ZWALTER file.
2. Mosiman and Birkey family contributions are also found in this file.
3. Death record of Magdelaine Zwalter, widow of Joseph Sommer, 9 February 1804 - English translation found in digital files.

Lorraine Roth
Tavistock, Ontario
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~ Updated with new research and reformatted by Bruce W. Jantzi, 2016